

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 HEW-06 CU-04 SSO-00 /027 W

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O 101530Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1165

UNCLAS JIDDA 3285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJECT: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION: EDUCATION EVALUATION TEAM

REF: A. STATE 107520 B. JIDDA 3085

1. GREATLY REGRET THAT EMBASSY, ECONOMIC COMMISSION OFFICERS AND SAUDIS WILL NOT BE IN POSITION TO RECEIVE EDUCATION TEAM ON MAY 13. WE REALIZE THIS MAY CAUSE SOME INCONVENIENCE, BUT POSTPONEMENT IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH OUR SAUDI COUNTERPARTS AND TO ASSURE THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED BY TEAM VISIT.

2. AS EMBASSY STATED IN REF B. DR. AL AS-SHAYKH WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL MAY 14, AND FINAL PROGRAMMING WILL AWAIT HIS RETURN. IN ADDITION, SAUDIS HAVE JUST NOW RECEIVED QUESTIONNAIRES SENT BY EDUCATION TEAM ON ENGINEERING. MEDICAL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRES NOT RPT NOT YET RECEIVED. WE PRESUME THESE ARE IMPORTANT AND IT MAKES SENSE TO ALLOW THE SAUDIS TIME TO FILL THEM OUT AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE.

3. ON THE PRACTICAL LEVEL, WE HAVE INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT AT VARIOUS TIMES THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE LAST MINUTE. AT THIS STATE WE ARE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING ROOMS FOR THE 17TH, AND THE EARLIER DATE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT EMBASSY HAS REPEATEDLY INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT NO TEAMS OR EXPERTS

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ARE TO BE SCHEDULED INTO SAUDI ARABIA WITHIN LESS THAN

14 DAYS AFTER EMBASSY APPROVAL OF VISIT. REF B WAS
DATED MAY 3. WE SHOULD ALSO REMIND DEPARTMENT THAT WE
PREFER TO HAVE TEAMS STOP IN JIDDA FOR CONSULTATION
BEFORE PROCEEDING TO RIYADH. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THESE
STOPOVERS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE CERTAINLY AN UNWELCOME
ADDITION TO OUR WORKLOAD, NEVERTHELESS PROVE INVALUABLE
IN THE LONG RUN.

ACTION REQUESTED: TEAM IS REQUESTED TO POSTPONE PRO-
JECTED ARRIVAL SAUDI ARABIA UNTIL MAY 17. CONNECTIONS
FROM PARIS COULD BE MADE WITH SV FLIGHT 837 DEPARTING
BEIRUT AT 1700 LOCAL. CONFIRMATION IS REQUESTED BY
RETURN CABLE.

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